

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 426
By Burks

A RESOLUTION to recognize April 11, 1996 as "National Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Day".

WHEREAS, April 11, 1996 has been designated as "National D.A.R.E. Day" to draw the special attention of the public to the "war on drugs" and to the role which D.A.R.E. has played in combating the significant problem of substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, D.A.R.E. is an education program which goes far beyond traditional drug abuse education programs by teaching young people to recognize subtle and overt pressures to experiment with drugs and alcohol, and offering them pragmatic, real-world ways to resist the temptation; and

WHEREAS, the core D.A.R.E. program encompasses a semester-long curriculum with accompanying classroom materials; and

WHEREAS, fifth and sixth grade students are targeted for pre- and post-program student testing: separate components have been developed for kindergarten, junior high school and senior high school students and their parents; and

WHEREAS, the D.A.R.E. curriculum is taught by police officers who have come straight from the streets, whose years of direct experience with street crimes caused by substance abuse gives them credibility among students unmatched by teachers, movie and television celebrities, and professional athletes; and

WHEREAS, national evaluations of the D.A.R.E. program reveal that the program has had a significant impact on the rates of drug and alcohol use among students who have studied D.A.R.E. versus those who have not; in addition, studies show that D.A.R.E. has helped improve study habits and grades, decreased vandalism and gang activity, and has created a measurable bridge of understanding between students and law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming national and international demand for the D.A.R.E. program led to the creation of a national nonprofit organization, D.A.R.E. America, which is headquartered in Los Angeles and serves as a resource to communities, helping them establish local programs and maintaining and improving those programs already in existence; and

WHEREAS, D.A.R.E. America supports officer training, coordinates fundraising and sponsorship opportunities, and regularly monitors instruction standards and program results; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, D.A.R.E. continued to build momentum as the world's preeminent drug and violence prevention education program with the addition of nearly four hundred new D.A.R.E. cities in the U.S. alone, bringing the total to approximately 70 percent of the nation's school districts; the number of officers trained to teach D.A.R.E. in classrooms now exceeds 25,000; and

WHEREAS, D.A.R.E. also experienced unprecedented international expansion during the year, with requests for training in other countries outdistancing our ability to respond; by year end, the number of countries that have implemented D.A.R.E. or requested to implement D.A.R.E. had increased to 41; and

WHEREAS, three new state D.A.R.E. charters were issued during 1995 -- Georgia, Montana and Wisconsin; the city of Houston was also granted a charter which will "fold in" to D.A.R.E. Texas when that state is chartered; and

WHEREAS, more than 5,000 officers completed D.A.R.E. training during 1995; while about 60 percent of these officers went through the core 80 hour D.A.R.E. Officer Training (DOT), more than 2,000 officers participated in advance training courses; and

WHEREAS, Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) is America's largest and most effective drug-use prevention program; reaching 25.5 million young people, from kindergarten through 12th grade, its precepts are taught in more than 250,000 classrooms in all 50 states and many other lands worldwide; and

WHEREAS, D.A.R.E. demonstrates that by working together communities have the power within themselves to keep the American Dream alive for all of us; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That April 11, 1996 be recognized as "National Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Day" in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That special attention be afforded to the D.A.R.E. Program for its resounding success in providing young people with the skills to "say no to alcohol and drugs", and that parents, teachers, children and all other citizens be encouraged to support the efforts of D.A.R.E. by observing this day with appropriate programs and activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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